

**REMARKS**

By this amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 1-8, 15, 18-25, 27, and 29. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 26, 28, and 29 remain pending.

In the outstanding Office Action (hereinafter, "Office Action") mailed January 11, 2007, the Examiner objected to claim 27 as allegedly being a duplicate claim; rejected claims 15 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,956,541 to McClintock (hereinafter, "*McClintock*") in view of U.S. Patent 5,767,818 to Nishida (hereinafter "*Nishida*"); rejected claims 1-8 and 18-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *McClintock* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,492,982 to Matsuzaki et al. (hereinafter, "*Matsuzaki*") and further in view of *Nishida*; and allowed claims 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 26, and 28.

The allowance of claims 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 26, and 28 is noted with appreciation.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the prior art relied upon in the rejection of record. Nevertheless, solely to advance prosecution of the present application, Applicants hereby cancel claims 1-8, 15, 18-25, and 29 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1-8, 15, 18-25, and 29 are now moot.

In addition, the objection to claim 27 as allegedly being a duplicate of claim 28 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 27. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claim 27.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 26, and 28 are allowable over the cited art.

Applicants note that the Office Action contains a number of statements characterizing either the cited art or the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

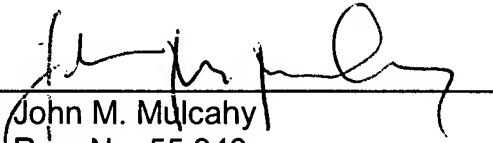
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: April 11, 2007

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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